

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1968

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: INITIAL PRESS BRIEFING BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR

TROYANOVSKIY

1. SOVIET PERM REP TROYANOVSKIY PRESNETED CREDENTIALS AT NOON JANUARY 6 TO SYG WALDHEIM AND MET IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS WITH UN PRESS CORPS. HIS REMARKS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES ARE APPROXIMATELY AS PROVIDED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. TROYANOVSKIY IN HIS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT SAID HE HAD LITTLE TO SAY OTHER THAN HE WILL FOLLOW SOVIET POLICIES- THOSE CONTAINED IN 24TH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS PLATFORM AND OFFERED BY BREZHNEV AS WELL AS SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE CALLED IT A "GOOD, REALISTIC" PLATFORM DESIGNED TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE AND BRING GREATER SECURITY FOR ALL NATIONS. HE CALLED THE UN A GOOD INSTRUMENT FOR CONSOLIDATING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND FOR DEVELOPING DETENTE. TROYANOVSKIY SAID THAT SINCE THE US ELECTIONS ARE NOW OVER IT IS OKAY TO USE THE WORD DETENTE AGAIN HE ASSUMES.

3. MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE: TROYANOVSKIY SAID HE HAD A SHORT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE SYG ON THIS BUT THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION. ASKED IF THERE IS ANY PROMISE OF A SETTLEMENT, HE SAID IT IS DIFFICULT TO REPLY NOW BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY

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DIFFERENT ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT CLEAR YET. IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE A DEFINITE STATEMENT. SOVIET POLICY REMAINS THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; THE PLO SHOULD TAKE PART; THAT THE CONFERENCE IS A GOOD FORUM FOR DISCUSSION; THAT THE USSR WILL DO ITS BEST TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION; THE BOTH 242 AND 338 ARE THE BASIS FOR IT. WALDHEIM HAS US/USSR AND ALL MEMBER STATE BLESSINGS AS REFLECTED IN LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TO DO WHAT HE CAN IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. CHINA/USSR PROBLEM: SOVIET DOOR IS OPEN AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, HE SAID; THIS WAS LATELY RESTATED BY HIS GOVERNMENT BUT SO FAR NO ONE HAS ENTERED THE DOOR, BUT USSR IS STILL HOPEFUL.

5. BOTSWANA: AS THIS MONTH'S PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TROYANOVSKIY SAID HE HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL REQUEST YET FROM THE BOTSWANA AMBASSADOR FOR A MEETING.

6. NEW US GOVERNMENT: ASKED IF CARTER AND BREZHNEV MIGHT MEET SOON, HE REFERRED TO BREZHNEV INTERVIEW WITH UPI KINGSBURY SMITH NEW YEAR'S EVE IN WHICH BREZHNEV IMPLIED HE IS HOPEFUL OF THIS. ASKED IF BREZHNEV MIGHT COME TO US TO MEET CARTER, HE SAID HE COULDN'T ADD TO FACT BREZHNEV IS HOPEFUL A MEETING IS POSSIBLE THIS YEAR.

7. UNEF: SOVIET WITHDRAWAL OF ASSESSMENT: ASKED HOW MUCH, TROYANOVSKIY SAID ONLY THAT USSR CANNOT BEAR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEASURES TAKEN WITHOUT SOVIET PARTICIPATION; THAT USSR REGARDS THIS AS ONLY TEMPORARY AND THAT A REAL OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION.

8. SOVIET JEWS/DISSIDENTS: ASKED WHY MORE AREN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE USSR, HE SAID MANY HAVE LEFT IN RECENT YEARS; THAT HE SEES NO PROBLEM HERE EXCEPT FOR INDIVIDUAL CASES DESPITE FACT THAT FEWER PEOPLE HAVE LEFT RECENTLY.

9. ENGLISH: ASKED BECAUSE HIS ENGLISH IS SO PERFECT IF HE MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDRESS UN DEBATES IN ENGLISH INSTEAD OF RUSSIAN, HE SAID NO, HE WOULD USE RUSSIAN WHICH IS AFTER ALL AN OFFICIAL UN LANGUAGE.

10. DISARMAMENT: TROYANOVSKIY SAID THE SOVIET UNION WOULD PROCEED ALONG THE LINES "WHICH WE HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING."

11. BYELORUSSIAN UN MEMBERSHIP: ASKED IF THIS IS SUPERFLUOUS, HE SAID NO THAT BYELORUSSIA AND OTHER USSR-LINKED COUNTRIES ARE FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS.

12. OUTER SPACE: THE TREATY COVERS ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF ALL PROBLEMS; THAT HE HADN'T CONSIDERED BANNING ALL WEAPONS IN OUTER SPACE.

13. ANDREW YOUNG: HE DOESN'T KNOW THE NEW US AMBASSADOR.

14. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: HE DOESN'T REGARD THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD AS BEING IN THE SAME BOAT AS THE WEST; THINKS FORMER COLONIAL POWERS MUST CARRY MOST

BURDEN IN HELPING POORER NATIONS; THEY MUST HAVE GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY. HE ENDORSES BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,
WHICH HE CLAIMED HIS GOVERNMENT ALREADY RENDERS, AS THE BEST WAY.
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